

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 PC-05 AID-05 USIA-15 FSI-03 PER-03

/044 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7128

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0534

DAKAR FOR PEACE CORPS - BAER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PEACE CORPS, MR

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF USG ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

REF: (A) STATE CA-155, (B) 76 NOUAKCHOTT 1737

1. SINCE SUMMER OF 1975, MISSION HAS PERIODICALLY REPORTED NEED AND OPPORTUNITY FOR SMALL, CAREFULLY TARGETED USG ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TEACHING PROGRAM IN MAURITANIA, AND HAS INCLUDED ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAM IN ITS "WISH LIST" OF DESIRED EXPANSIONS OF MISSION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. VARIOUS WISH LIST ENGLISH TEACHING ENTRIES INCLUDED GUESSTIMATES IN MOST GENERAL TERMS OF MANPOWER AND BUDGETARY RESOURCES REQUIRED. MISSION COULD NOT RPT NOTPROJECT FIRM AND DETAILED FIGURES BECAUSE WE DID NOT HAVE TECHNICAL TEFL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED TO DESIGN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM OR SUFFICIENT KNOWLEDGE OF USG PROGRAMS/RESOURCES TO PUT TOGETHER PROGRAM COMBINING SKILLS AND ASSETS OF THE SEVERAL US AGENCIES WORKING IN TEFL FIELD. MISSION'S ORIGINAL VIEW OF NEED FOR ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAM WAS PRIMARILY CULTURAL AND POLITICAL: TO COMPLIMENT AND ENHANCE EXCHANGE OF PERSONS AND OTHER EFFORTS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE KNOWLEDGE OF US AND ITS OBJECTIVES AMONG MAURITANIAN LEADERSHIP GROUP PRESENT AND FUTURE, AND TO RESPOND TO REPEATED REQUESTS FROM MINISTERS

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AND SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS FOR HELP IN LEARNING OR IN PERFECTING THEIR LYCEE KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH. HOWEVER, AS USG HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF ITS BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN MAURITANIA AND IN SAHEL, RATIONALE/JUSTIFICATION FOR ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAM HAS COME TO INCLUDE AS SIGNIFICANT COMPONENT ADVANCEMENT OF US OWN IMMEDIATE INTERESTS AND

ACHIEVEMENT OF US OBJECTIVES. SUCCESS OF JOINT US AND MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS PROJECTED OVER NEXT TWO DECADES WILL INCREASINGLY BE LINKED TO ABILITY OF MAURITANIAN PLANNERS AND TECHNICIANS TO ABSORB LITERATURE OF DEVELOPMENT THEORY AND PRACTICE (MKT OF WHICH IS IN ENGLISH) AND ACQUIRE US TECHNICAL AND MANAMRIAL TECHNOLOGY (VIRTUALLY ALL OF WHICH IS IN ENGLISH).

2. AN EFFECTIVE ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAM UTILIZING STATE, AID, USIA, AND PEACE CORPS RESOURCES (AND PERHAPS INFORMALLY INTEGRATING BRITISH COUNCIL RESOURCES AND EFFORTS) COULD BE DEvised AND COULD BECOME IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF USG PRESENCE AND PROGRAM EFFORTS IN MAURITANIA. ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAM SHOULD PROBABLY ADDRESS THREE TARGET OBJECTIVES: (1) GENERAL CULTURAL AND POLITICAL; (2) PROFESSIONAL/OCCUPATIONAL LANGUAGE NEEDS; WL CREATING OR UPGRADING ENGLISH COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY OF TOP GIRM LEADERSHIP GROUP; SHOULD AIM AT FOLLOWING ASSOCIATED TARGET GROUPS: (1) LYCEE STUDENTS, TEACHER TRAINEES, JOURNALISTS; (2) NATIONAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION CANDIDATES WHO FEED INTO DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MINISTRY BUREAUCRACIES--CIVIL AVIATION PERSONNEL--TOURISM PERSONNEL (BORDER POLICE, CUSTOMS INSPECTORS, HOTEL STAFF, ETC.) AND (3) MINISTERS, SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS, TOP BUSINESSMEN; AND SHOULD APPROACH TARGETS WITH SPECIFIC LANGUAGE COMPETENCE GOALS, TEACHING MATERIALS AND TRAINING METHODS TAILORED TO EACH OBJECTIVE/GROUP. BUT MISSION NEEDS ASSISTANCE OF TEFL EXPERT TO DESIGN PROGRAM WHICH WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO MAURITANIANHKNDS AND TO IDENTIFY AND COST OUT REQUIRED

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US INPUTS. REPORT ON ONE SEGMENT OF POSSIBLE PROGRAM PREPARED IN APRIL 1976 BY USIA'S ROYER AT CDO-MAURITANIA'S REQUEST IS EXCELLENT BEGINNING PLACE. BUT AS RESULT OF SHIFT IN US EMPHASIS AND GROWTH OF NEED, ROYER REPORT DOES NOT ADDRESS PRESENT PROBLEM. SINCE EARLY FALL 1976, WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING TO ENLIST ASSISTANCE OF OUTSTANDING TEFL EXPERT WHO IS "IN NEIGHBORHOOD", BUT DAKAR- BASED PC TEFL SPECIALIST LILLIAN BAER HAS BEEN SWAMPED WITH PC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND UNFORTUNATELY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO HELP US ADDRESS OUR PROBLEM. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT SHE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE "END APRIL" AT EARLIEST.

3. SINCE WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DESIGN ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAM FOR MAURITANIA ON HOPED FOR "DO-IT-YOURSELF" BASIS IN TIME FRAME ESTABLISHED BY REF CA, WE REQUEST ASSISTANCE OF USIS, AID AND/OR STATE IN ORGANIZING ONE-WEEK TDY TO US MISSION TO MAURITANIA OF AN EXPERT IN ENGLISH TEACHING PROGRAMS IN AFRICA. WE UNDERSTAND USIS STILL HAS TWO ROVING TEFL EXPERTS IN AFRICA. WE WOULD

VERY MUCH APPRECIATE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE WASHINGTON  
AGENCIES CAN ARRANGE, AND HOPE AF/W MAY BE ABLE TO  
COORDINATE RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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